



DANBURY FAIR

Testimony regarding H.B. 5474 An Act Concerning the Establishment of Electronic Tolls at the State's
Borders
Before the Legislature's Transportation Committee
Friday, March 12, 2010

10:00am, Room 1A Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT

Macerich's/Danbury Fair mall is in opposition to the recent Act to reinstate toll booths on major State highways as referenced in the Proposed Bill No. 6213.

This Act if passed would potentially impact Danbury Fair's ability to attract customers living in the bordering New York towns which account for over 40% of the Connecticut sales tax revenue generated by retail sales at the mall. Danbury is an attractive retail destination for New Yorker's mainly because of the lower sales tax. In addition, the city of Danbury is Connecticut's top retail tax payer, largely due to the contributions made by Danbury Fair. Implementation of toll booths would potentially deter New Yorker's from traveling to Danbury to shop because of the added traveling cost and *additional traffic congestion*.

Danbury Fair ranks as one of New England's largest shopping centers. It's location in the heart of southwest Connecticut's Fairfield County in Connecticut and neighboring Westchester and Putnam County's in New York solidifies the center as a major shopping destination. Losing the New York shopper, would potentially impact Danbury Fair's ability to generate sales and ability to attract quality, retailers to the Danbury area. Currently, Danbury Fair is the number one tax payer in the city of Danbury.

Danbury Fair is a member of the Greater Danbury Chamber of Commerce, which, as an organization, also opposes the implementation of toll centers at border communities in Connecticut.

Again, join us in opposing the Proposed Bill No. 6213 that has been referred to the Committee on Transportation for consideration.

Please feel free to contact me at Danbury Fair for any additional information.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Maura Ruby,
Senior Manager, Property Management

CC: M. Eigen
R. Stenholm